

District 17 • FALL 2012

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LEGISLATIVE WATCH

from Suffolk County Legislator

LOU D'AMARO

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A Message From Legislator D'Amaro

Since the beginning of the year, County officials have been aggressively tackling an estimated \$530 million three-year budget shortfall. I am pleased to report that the Legislature and County Executive have made significant progress in reducing the shortfall to approximately \$200 million through the implementation of numerous mitigation measures. However, more tough decisions still need to be made and residents have my commitment that I will continue to work diligently to improve the County's fiscal condition and protect taxpayers as the Legislature reviews the 2013 Operating Budget.

The Operating Budget is actually the crux of County government. It sets major policy initiatives and provides funding for most County departments, programs, and services. After the Operating Budget is proposed by the County Executive in September, it is reviewed and amended by a legislative working group throughout October and adopted by the full 18 member Legislature in early November. I am very pleased to have once again been appointed to serve on the Legislature's Operating Budget Working Group by Presiding Officer William J. Lindsay. The eight-member bi-partisan panel is tasked with providing an exhaustive line by line review of the proposed budget and recommending any changes to the full Legislature.

There will be many opportunities for public input throughout the process via both special budgetary hearings and committee meetings. I urge you to stay informed and provide us with your input, feedback and suggestions. You can view the budget online at <http://legis.suffolkcountyny.gov/>. For six consecutive years we have adopted budgets that included no increases in General Fund property taxes while holding the line on spending. It is imperative that we strive to continue with this fiscally prudent record, even in the face of budget shortfalls created by the down economy.

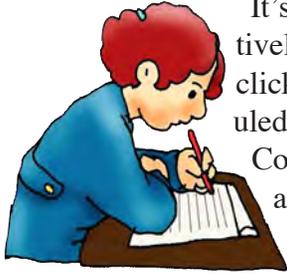
As always, feel free to contact my office at (631) 854-4433 if I may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lou D'Amaro".

Civil Service Exam Information Online

Did you know that Suffolk County administers competitive exams for job titles in over 241 jurisdictions including the county, its 10 towns and the multitude of villages, school districts and fire, water and library special districts?



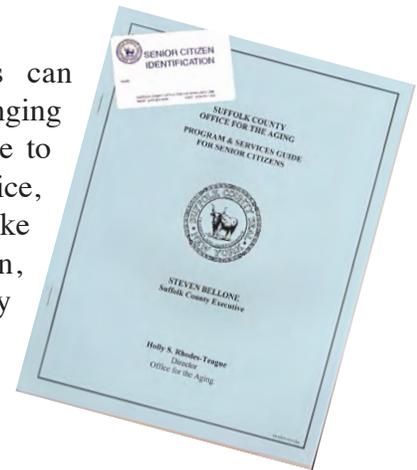
It's true! In past years, up to 300 exams were administered for these jurisdictions, which collectively employ almost 50,000 individuals. Now, new employment opportunities may be just a mouse click away as individuals interested in becoming civil service employees can find out about scheduled exams and available positions right online. The program, administered through the Suffolk County Department of Civil Service, provides information on positions available both locally and across the country.

Interested residents can find information about upcoming civil service exams by visiting <http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/civilservice.aspx> and clicking on "Current List of Exams." Each exam listing includes information on if and where the job openings are available. While some exams are administered for future job vacancies only, it is in prospective employees' best interest to take any exams as they are offered to ensure that they are placed on the Civil Service Eligible List when openings do occur. The online Civil Service exam listing is another way for individuals to enhance their job searches, and Legislator D'Amato urges every community member to regularly check this informative website to see if there is an upcoming exam and/or job opening that is a good fit for their background and interests. It could be the start of an exciting new career!

Senior Discount Cards Available

In his continued effort to ensure that our senior citizens receive access to all of the discounts and programs provided by the Suffolk County Office for the Aging, Legislator D'Amato wants to remind local residents that Senior Citizen Identification Cards are always available at his district office. The free cards, for residents ages 60 and older, are required for the reduced fare on County buses and also may be used to receive discounts at many area businesses. While at the office, interested residents can also pick up the newly-revised edition of the Suffolk County Office for the Aging Program & Services

manual. Eligible seniors can receive their cards by bringing proof of age and residence to Legislator D'Amato's office, 130 West Jericho Turnpike in Huntington Station, Monday through Friday between 9 am and 5 pm. For more information, call Legislator D'Amato's office at (631) 854-4433.



Get Documents Notarized for Free

A notary public is a person authorized by a state or local government to witness the signing of certain important documents. Examples of documents that may need notarization include (but are not limited to):

- Wills, deeds and trusts
- Medical documents
- Power of Attorney
- Promissory notes
- Affidavits and depositions

Legislator Lou D'Amato is proud that he and every member of his staff is a licensed New York State Notary Public and invites community members to stop by the office anytime during regular business hours to have

documents notarized.

Certain documents may not be legally enforceable without notarization. As an impartial witness to the signing of a legally binding document, the notary confirms the identity of the person signing to protect against fraud. Residents who have documents in need of notarization can bring them to the district office at 130 West Jericho Turnpike in Huntington Station, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm with a *valid form of identification*. Acceptable forms of identification include: a driver's license, a state-issued ID card, a passport or a military ID card. Documents must be signed in the presence of the notary so already-existing signatures not witnessed by the notary cannot be legally notarized.

Visit www.123notary.com for more information on notary functions and duties.



Senior of the Year: Peter Cann of Huntington Station

Huntington Station resident Peter Cann, pictured here with Slava Vero of SeniorNet (left) and his wife Genevieve, was recently honored by Legislator D’Amaro as District 17’s 2012 Senior Citizen of the Year. As an active volunteer for SeniorNet Long Island since 1999, Peter Cann has been an integral part of the success of the non-profit organization that provides free computer classes and training for senior citizens, teaching them how to approach, navigate and master the ever-evolving information highway. He volunteers more than 500 hours a year, as a technical expert and coach, and has actively served on the SeniorNet Board of Directors for more than 12 years.



Deer Park Pastor Provides Inspiration



Encouraging “understanding, council, strength, courage, patience and conviction,” Pastor Justin C. Lathrop of the Ascension Lutheran Church in Deer Park opened the Suffolk County Legislature’s May 8th general session with an uplifting and universally-appealing non-denominational invocation. Legislator D’Amaro invited Pastor Lathrop to represent his Legislative District before the entire Legislature and other guests in attendance at the William H. Rogers Legislative Building in Hauppauge. The Ascension Lutheran Church in Deer Park was established in 1954 and is one of the largest Lutheran Churches in New York.

NBAC Gridders and Cheerleaders Begin Seasons

Legislator Lou D’Amaro, Babylon Town Supervisor Rich Schaffer, Councilmembers Tony Martinez and Thomas Donnelly and fellow Suffolk Legislator Ricardo Montano helped open the North Babylon Athletic Club’s 2012 Football and Cheerleading seasons by joining in the grand parade and welcoming ceremonies for the more than 230 participants in the program. After the parade down Phelps Lane in North Babylon, NBAC Commissioner Sal Levanti and Cheerleading Commissioner Kim Mirrione welcomed the superstars, aged 5-13 years old, to the field and wished them a successful season where sportsmanship, leadership and teamwork would continue to take precedence.



Columbia Police Association Honors Legislator D'Amaro

Under the direction of President Gilda Avram, the Suffolk County Columbia Police Association is comprised of law enforcement personnel of Italian-American descent who are dedicated to developing an understanding and appreciation of the many contributions made by Italian-Americans. It provides leadership in the spirit of brotherhood among people regardless of race, creed or religion and promotes a positive focus on education, cultural and charitable endeavors while providing scholarships to worthy local students. Legislator D'Amaro was proud to receive the organization's 2012 Public Service Award at the organization's annual golf outing fundraiser in September.



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North Babylon Street Renamed for Brave Officer

Nine-year NYPD Officer Andre Menzies was returning home from work in November 2010 when his life was tragically cut short by a wrong-way drunk driver on the Northern State Parkway in Dix Hills. This past summer, Legislator D'Amaro joined Babylon Supervisor Rich Schaffer, Councilmen Thomas Donnelly, Tony Martinez and Lindsay Henry and Alternate Council member Ellen McVeety in paying tribute to his bravery and service by renaming Earl Street in North Babylon "Police Officer Andre Menzies Street."



Huntington Station Unity Day Parade

The sun was shining and the smiles were bright as Legislator D'Amaro joined (from left) Second Precinct Commanding Officer Edward J. Brady, Town of Huntington Councilwoman Susan Berland, Unity Day Honoree Brad



Rosen and Huntington resident Steve Rossetti of the Suffolk County Industrial Development Agency at the start of the parade for the Third Annual Huntington Awareness Day on Saturday, September 22nd in Huntington Station. Spectators lined New York Avenue to show support for the community and hundreds attended the festival at the Northwest LIRR commuter parking lot. In recognition of their many contributions to the Huntington Station Community, the Rosen family was selected as Parade Grand Marshalls and rode in the lead car of the parade.